

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /141 W

-----076142 011719Z /43

P 011631Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5395
INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 01988

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT, OES/NET AND HOUCK, ACDA

DOE PASS AMMONS, IA

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM
SUBJECT: CONSULTANTS' MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO IAEA
ADVISORY GROUP ON SAFEGUARDING REPROCESSING PLANTS

REF: (A) VIENNA 662, (B) VIENNA 1233

1. AS NOTED PARA 3 REF A, AGENCY PLANS CONSULTANTS' MEETING TO ASSIST SECRETARIAT IN PREPARATION OF WORKING PAPER FOR SUBSEQUENT ADVISORY GROUP. VON BAECKMANN, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SAFEGUARDS DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, HAS ADVISED MISOFFS THAT HE PLANS TO HOLD TWO RPT TWO CONSULTANTS' MEETINGS; FIRST ONE ABOUT APRIL 10, INCLUDING US, USSR, UK AND FRANCE AND SECOND ONE LATER IN APRIL INCLUDING BELGIUM, FRG, JAPAN AND POSSIBLY EURATOM (SAFEGUARDS STAFF).

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2. HIS RATIONALE WAS THAT ALL THESE COUNTRIES WOULD WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONSULTANTS' MEETING ON THIS MATTER, BUT SINGLE MEETING WOULD BE TOO LARGE. HE ALSO FELT THAT IF THERE WAS A MIX OF WEAPONS AND NON-WEAPONS COUNTRIES AT SAME MEETING, THERE WOULD BE RISK OF MEETING BECOMING EMBROILED IN POLITICAL ISSUES RATHER THAN DRAFTING OF AN

OBJECTIVE WORKING PAPER. HE FELT THAT, AT CONSULTANTS' MEETINGS, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORKING PAPER SINCE THEY HAD NO SIGNIFICANT REPROCESSING PLANT EXPERIENCE. HE EXPECTS THAT IN THE SUBSEQUENT ADVISORY GROUP WHERE THERE WILL BE A MIXTURE, FRENCH PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE MODERATING EFFECT ON PAKISTAN, AS FRG WOULD HAVE ON BRAZIL.

3. VON BAECKMANN INTENDS FOR MAIN FOCUS OF MEETINGS TO BE ON SAFEGUARDS AT EXISTING TYPES OF REPROCESSING PLANTS SUCH AS WAK, PNC AND EUROCHEMIC, AND NOT RPT NOT AT HYPOTHETICAL PLANTS WHICH "MIGHT HAVE" FEATURES WHICH WOULD ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING. COMMENT: THERE IS CLEARLY SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THIS APPROACH SINCE IAEA INSPECTORS ARE HAVING TO IMPLEMENT AVAILABLE SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES IN PLANTS AS THEY EXIST TODAY, AND THEY WANT TO KNOW HOW TO DO A BETTER JOB, IF POSSIBLE. END COMMENT. VON BAECKMANN WANTS TO EMPHASIZE AT THE MEETINGS THE NEED FOR VERY PRECISE FORMULATION ON HOW TO SAFEGUARD EXISTING PLANTS. HE ALSO WANTS TO CONSIDER SAFEGUARDS TECHNIQUES WHICH HAVE PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE, RATHER THAN POSSIBLE SCHEMES WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE.

4. HE SAID ONLY BRIEF CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO IDENTIFYING OR DISCUSSING DESIGN FEATURES WHICH MIGHT BE INCORPORATED IN NEW REPROCESSING FACILITIES FOR IMPROVING CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR SAFEGUARDABILITY (HE IS AWARE THAT INFCE WORKING GROUP 4 PLANS TO CONSIDER SAFEGUARDS AT REPROCESSING PLANTS AND PROBABLY ALSO THAT FRG PLANS TO OFFER MODEL PLANT DESIGN INFORMATION ON WHICH THE GROUP CAN BASE THAT CONSIDERATION). HE ALSO NOTED THAT AGENDA FOR IAEA'S INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER THIS YEAR WILL HAVE ITEM ON PLANT DESIGN FEATURES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: VON BAECKMANN WOULD LIKE TO KNOW BY MARCH 10 NAME OF US CONSULTANT. HE EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE FOR TECHNICAL EXPERT IN CHEMICAL REPROCESSING SAFEGUARDS. NOTE: THE US CONSULTANT SHOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBSEQUENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON THE SUBJECT IN JUNE. NAMES WHICH HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO VON BAECKMANN BY MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF INCLUDE AL SKINNER OF SAVANNAH RIVER, GARY MOLEN OR AL WILLIAMS OF AGNS, R.E. BROOKSBANK OF ORNL AND A. MAINONI OF L.L.L.. MISSION NOTES MOLEN ATTENDED MAY 1976 IAEA CONSULTANTS' MEETING ON "SAFEGUARDS INSTRUMENTATION AT REPROCESSING PLANTS".

6. COMMENT: AS DEPT AWARE THIS ISSUE IS POLITICALLY "LOADED" (E.G. IN DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF IDENTIFYING

DIVERSION HAZARDS AT REPROCESSING PLANTS; PARA 2 REF A).
VON BAECKMANN PLAN TO HAVE A GROUP WHICH IS NOT RPT NOT
LIKELY TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC FOR RIGOROUS IAEA SAFEGUARDS
HAVE LAST CRACK AT THE WORKING PAPER, AFTER US, UK AND
USSR HAVE WORKED ON IT, IS NOT REASSURING.
AS NOTED IN PARA 6/11 REF B THE ISSUE OF DETECTION TIME AT
REPROCESSING PLANTS, CURRENTLY AWAITING FURTHER CONSIDERA-
TION BY SAGSI, WILL PROBABLY COME UP IN CONNECTION WITH

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THESE MEETINGS.

7. QUESTION OF OBSERVER IN ADDITION TO CONSULTANT FOR
APRIL MEETING HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, BUT MISSION BELIEVES
ONE US OBSERVER WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

8. MISSION URGES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO CHOOS-
ING CONSULTANT (AND POSSIBLE OBSERVER) WHO CAN MAKE
STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING SAFEGUARDS
AT EXISTING PLANTS USING EXISTING PROCEDURES AND TECH-
NIQUES AND WHO ALSO WELL BRIEFED ON POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF SUBJECT.

9. PLEASE ADVISE RE (A) USG WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE
IN CONSULTANT MEETINGS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND
(B) IF SO, NAME OF US CONSULTANT (AND OBSERVER, IF ANY).
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